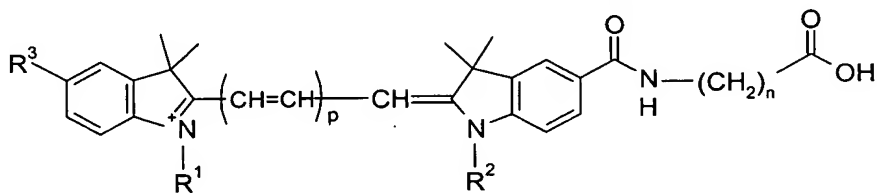


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 33. (CANCELED)

34. (Previously presented) A cyanine dye of formula XVIII,



in which

p is 1, 2 or 3,

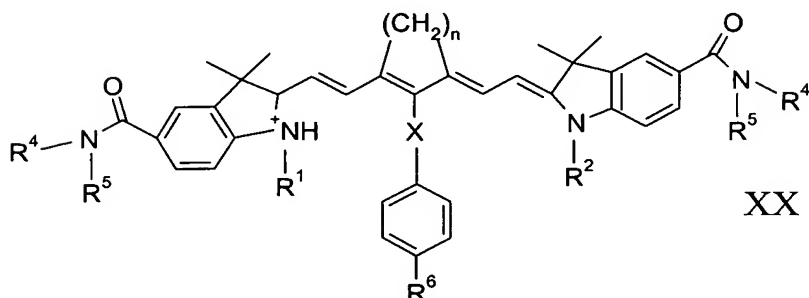
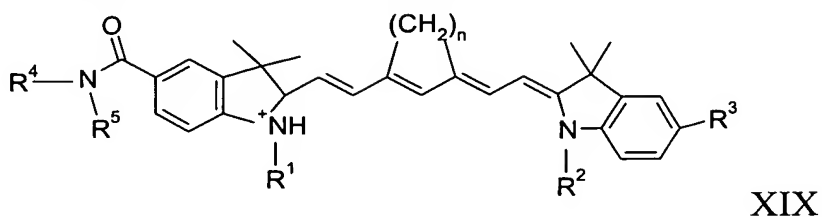
n is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 10,

R¹ and R², independently of one another, are a 4-sulfobutyl, 3-sulfopropyl, 2-sulfoethyl, 3-methyl-3-sulfopropyl, methyl, ethyl or propyl radical, and

R³ is hydrogen or a radical -COOE¹, -CONE¹E², -NHCOE¹, -NHCONHE¹, -NE¹E², -OE¹, -OSO₃E¹, -SO₃E¹, or -SO₂NHE¹,

where E¹ and E², independently of one another, are a hydrogen atom or a methyl, ethyl or a C₃-C₆ alkyl radical, which is optionally interrupted by 0 to 2 oxygen atoms and/or by 0 to 1 carbonyl groups and/or is substituted by 0 to 5 hydroxy groups.

35. (Currently Amended) A cyanine dye of formula XIX or XX



in which

n is 2 or 3,

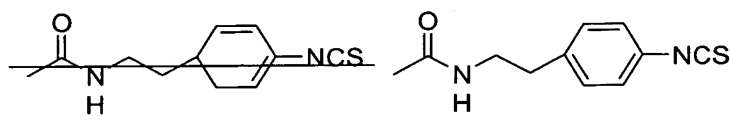
R^1 and R^2 , independently of one another, are a 4-sulfobutyl, 3-sulfopropyl or 2-sulfoethyl radical,

R^3 is a $-COOH$ group or one of the following radicals:

$-CONH-(CH_2)_n-COOH$ with $n = 2$ or 3 ,

$-CONH-(CH_2)_n-NCS$ with $n = 2$ or 3 ,

$-CONH-(CH_2)_n-NHCO-CH_2-X^1$ with $n = 2$ or 3 and $X^1 = Cl, Br, I$



R^4 and R^5 , independently of one another, are a hydrogen atom, a methyl radical or a hydroxylated alkyl radical,

R^6 is one of the following groups:

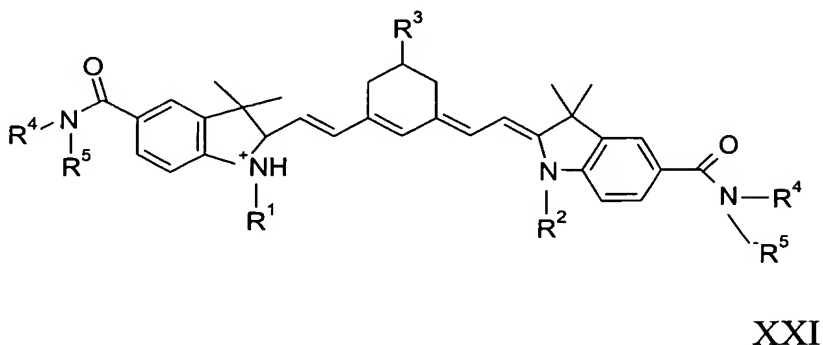
$-(CH_2)_m-COOH$ with $m = 0$ to 2 ,

$-(CH_2)_m-NCS$ with $m = 0$ to 2 ,

$-(CH_2)_m-CONH-peptide$ with $m = 0$ to 2 ,

$-(CH_2)_m-NH-CS-NH-peptide$ with $m = 0$ to 2 ,
and X is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom.

36. (Currently Amended) A cyanine dye of formula XXI



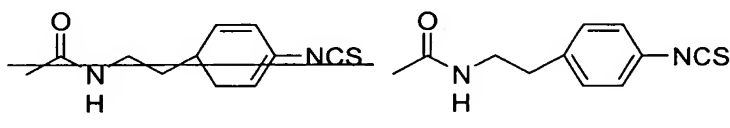
in which

R^1 and R^2 , independently of one another, are a 4-sulfobutyl- or 3-sulfopropyl radical,
 R^3 is a $-COOH$ group or one of the following radicals:

$-CONH-(CH_2)_n-COOH$ with $n = 2$ or 3 ,

$-CONH-(CH_2)_n-NCS$ with $n = 2$ or 3 ,

$-CONH-(CH_2)_n-NHCO-CH_2-X^1$ with $n = 2$ or 3 and $X^1 = Cl, Br, I$



and R^4 and R^5 , independently of one another, are a hydrogen atom, a methyl radical or a hydroxylated alkyl radical.

37. (Previously presented) An analog of the vaso-active intestinal peptide,
which is of one of the following sequences:

His-Trp-Asp-Ala-Val-Phe-Thr-Asp-Asn-Tyr-Thr-Arg-Leu-Arg-Lys-Gln-Met-Ala-Val-
Lys-Lys-Tyr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ile-Leu-Asn (SEQ ID NO: 1);

His-Ser-Asp-Ala-Val-Phe-Thr-Phe-Asn-Tyr-Thr-Arg-Leu-Arg-Lys-Gln-Met-Ala-Val-Lys-Lys-Tyr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ile-Leu-Asn (SEQ ID NO: 2);

His-Ser-Asp-Ala-Val-Phe-Thr-Lys-Asn-Tyr-Thr-Arg-Leu-Arg-Lys-Gln-Met-Ala-Val-Lys-Lys-Tyr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ile-Leu-Asn (SEQ ID NO: 3);

His-Ser-Asp-Ala-Val-Phe-Thr-Gln-Asn-Tyr-Thr-Arg-Leu-Arg-Lys-Gln-Met-Ala-Val-Lys-Lys-Tyr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ile-Leu-Asn (SEQ ID NO: 4);

His-Ser-Asp-Ala-Val-Phe-Thr-Arg-Asn-Tyr-Thr-Arg-Leu-Arg-Lys-Gln-Met-Ala-Val-Lys-Lys-Tyr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ile-Leu-Asn (SEQ ID NO: 5);

His-Ser-Asp-Ala-Val-Phe-Thr-Trp-Asn-Tyr-Thr-Arg-Leu-Arg-Lys-Gln-Met-Ala-Val-Lys-Lys-Tyr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ile-Leu-Asn (SEQ ID NO: 6);

His-Ser-Asp-Ala-Val-Phe-Thr-Asp-Asn-Tyr-Arg-Arg-Leu-Arg-Lys-Gln-Met-Ala-Val-Lys-Lys-Tyr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ile-Leu-Asn (SEQ ID NO: 7); or

His-Ser-Asp-Ala-Val-Phe-Thr-Asp-Asn-Tyr-Thr-Arg-Leu-Arg-Lys-Gln-Met-Arg-Val-Lys-Lys-Tyr-Leu-Asn-Ser-Ile-Leu-Asn (SEQ ID NO: 8).